

# Hard and Easy Instances of L-Tromino Tilings <sup>1</sup>

**Javier T. Akagi** <sup>1</sup>, Carlos F. Gaona <sup>1</sup>, Fabricio Mendoza <sup>1</sup>,  
Manjil P. Saikia <sup>2</sup>, Marcos Villagra <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Universidad Nacional de Asunción  
NIDTEC, Campus Universitario, San Lorenzo C.P. 2619, Paraguay

<sup>2</sup>Fakultät für Mathematik, Universität Wien  
Oskar-Morgenstern-Platz 1, 1090 Vienna, Austria

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- 1 Introduction
  - Polyominoes
  - L-Tromino Tiling Problem
- 2 Tiling of the Aztec Rectangles
  - Aztec Rectangle
  - Aztec Rectangle with a single defect
  - Tiling Aztec Rectangle with unbounded number of defects
- 3 180-Tromino Tiling
  - A rotation constraint
  - Forbidden Polyominoes

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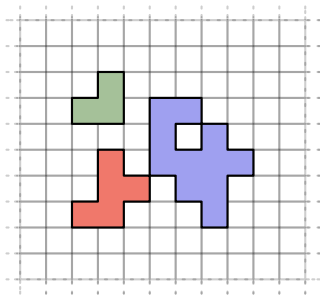
## Definition

A polyomino is a planar figure made from one or more equal-sized squares, each joined together along an edge [S. Golomb (1953)].

# Polyominoes

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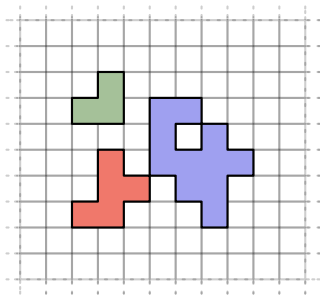
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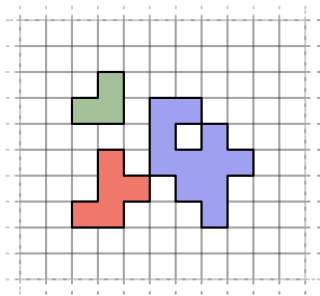


- Every cell (square) is fixed in a square lattice.

# Polyominoes

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- Every cell (square) is fixed in a square lattice.
- Two cells are adjacent if the Manhattan distance is 1.



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



Given:

- A set of L-trominoes  $\Sigma$  called a **tile set**,  $\Sigma = \{ \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \}$

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



Given:

- A set of L-trominoes  $\Sigma$  called a **tile set**,  $\Sigma = \{$  , , ,   $\}$
- and a polyomino  $R$  called **region**.

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Goal: Place tiles from  $\Sigma$  to fill the region  $R$  covering every cell **without overflowing** the perimeter of  $R$  and **without overlapping** between the tiles.

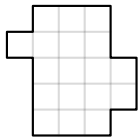
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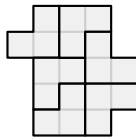
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(a) A region  $R$



(b) A tiling of region  $R$





- C. Moore and J. M. Robson (2000) proved that deciding the existence of a L-tromino tiling in a given region is **NP-complete** with a reduction from **Monotone 1-in-3 SAT**.

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- T. Horiyama, T. Ito, K. Nakatsuka, A. Suzuki and R. Uehara (2012) constructed a **one-one reduction** from **1-in-3 SAT**.

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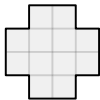
The **Aztec Diamond**  $AD(n)$  is the union of all cell inside the contour  $|x| + |y| = n + 1$ .

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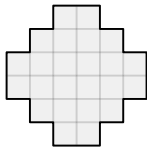
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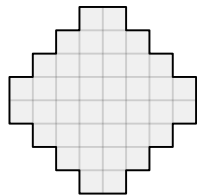
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(b)  $AD(2)$



(c)  $AD(3)$



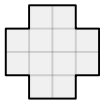
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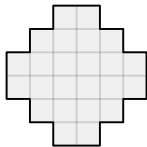
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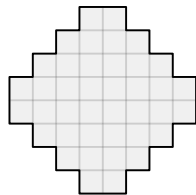
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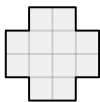
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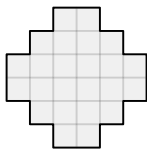
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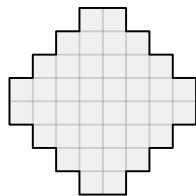
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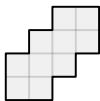


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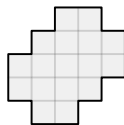
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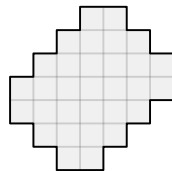
(a)  $\mathcal{AR}_{1,2}$



(b)  $\mathcal{AR}_{1,3}$



(c)  $\mathcal{AR}_{2,3}$



(d)  $\mathcal{AR}_{3,4}$



# Tiling Aztec Rectangle (cont'd)

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Each piece of L-tromino **covers 3 cells**.



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$$|\mathcal{AR}_{a,b}| = a(b+1) + b(a+1).$$

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## Theorem

An *Aztec rectangle*  $\mathcal{AR}_{a,b}$  has a tiling with L-trominoes

$$\iff |\mathcal{AR}_{a,b}| \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$$

$$\iff (a, b) \text{ is equal to } (3k, 3k') \text{ or } (3k-1, 3k'-1) \text{ for some } k, k' \in \mathbb{N}.$$

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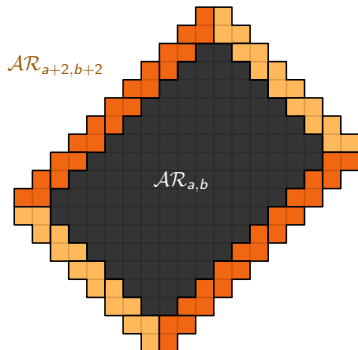
The problem of tiling an **Aztec Rectangle** can be solved **recursively**.

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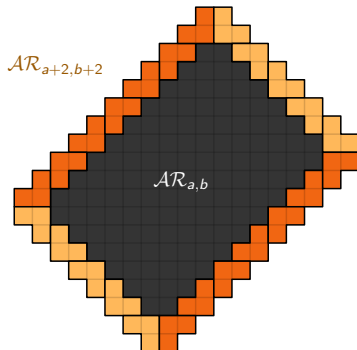


(a) Pattern 1

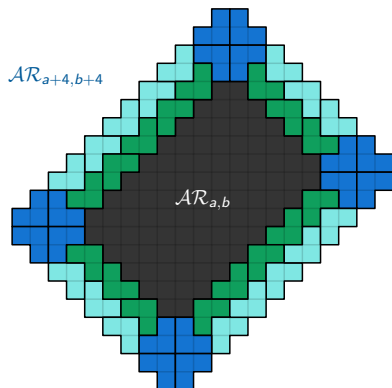
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(b) Pattern 2

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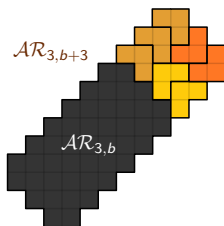
The problem of tiling an **Aztec Rectangle** can be solved **recursively**.

- If  $(a, b)$  equals  $(3, 3k')$ , use pattern 3.
- If  $(a, b)$  equals  $(2, 3k' - 1)$ , use pattern 4.

# Tiling Aztec Rectangle (cont'd)

The problem of tiling an Aztec Rectangle can be solved **recursively**.

- If  $(a, b)$  equals  $(3, 3k')$ , use pattern 3.
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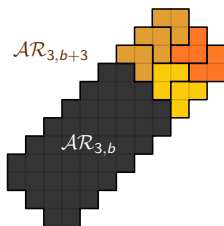


(a) Pattern 3

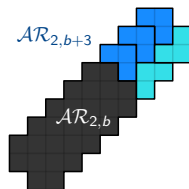
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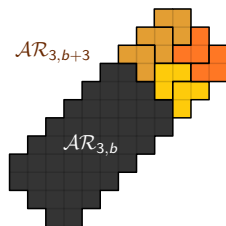


(b) Pattern 4

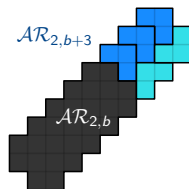
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**Base case:**  $AR_{2,2}$  and  $AR_{3,3}$ .

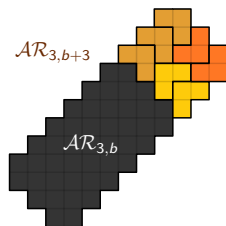




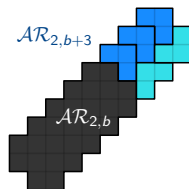
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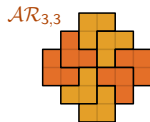


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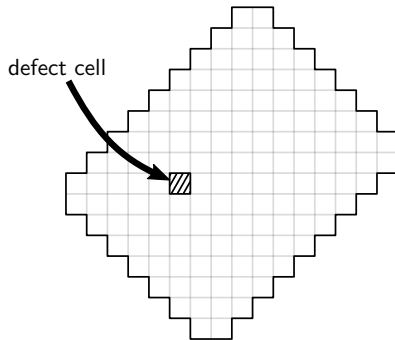
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A **defect cell** is a cell in which no tromino can be placed on top.

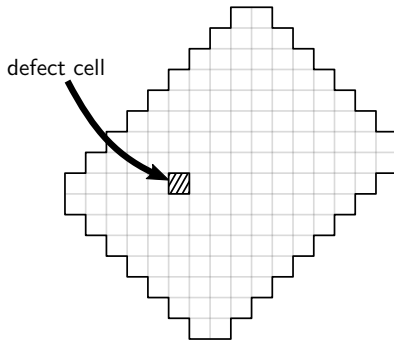
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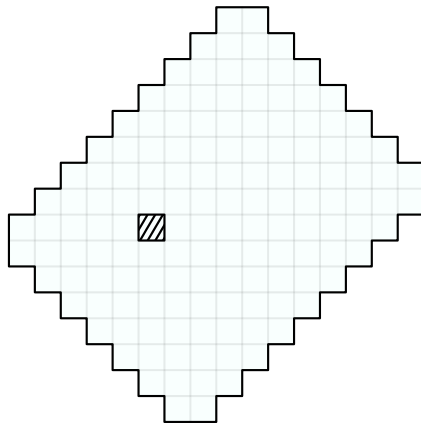
## Theorem

An Aztec rectangle  $\mathcal{AR}_{a,b}$  with one defect has a tiling with L-trominoes

$$\iff |\mathcal{AR}_{a,b}| \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$$

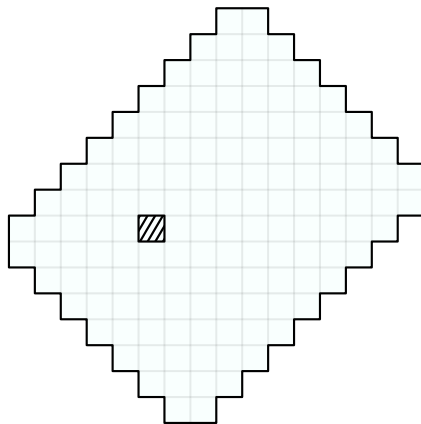
$$\iff a \text{ or } b \text{ is equal to } 3k - 2 \text{ for some } k \in \mathbb{N}.$$

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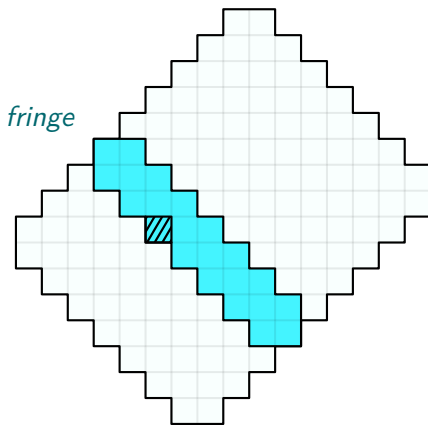
- Place a *fringe* where it covers the defect.





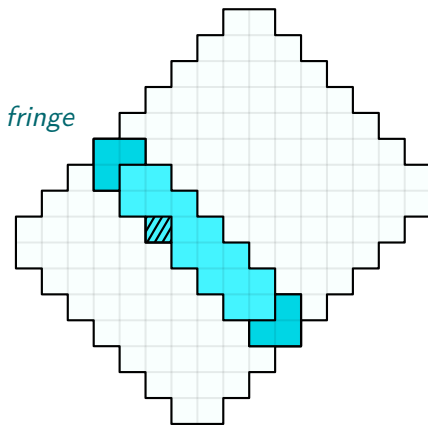
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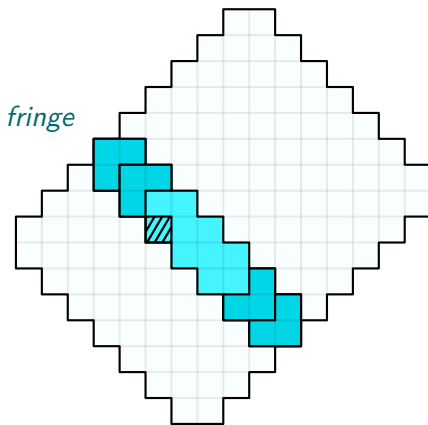
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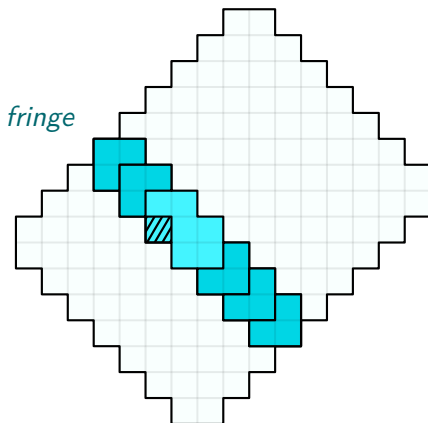
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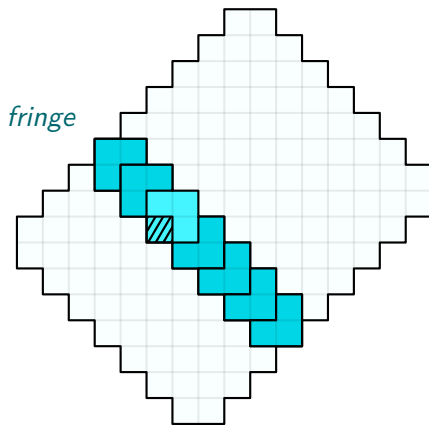
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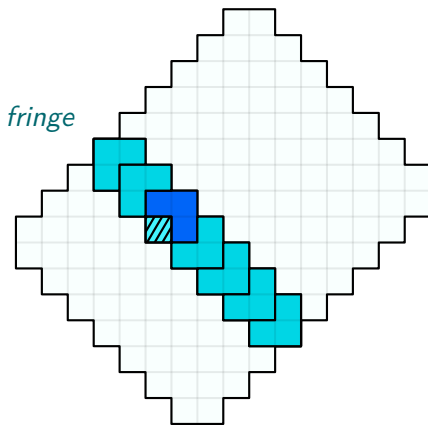
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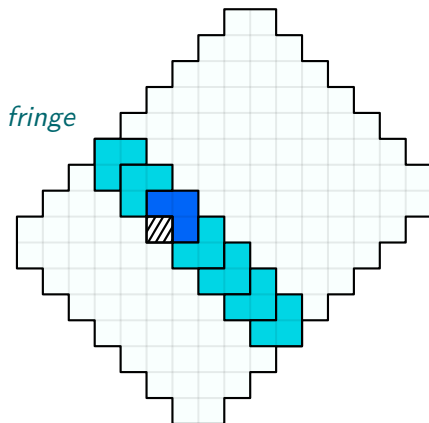
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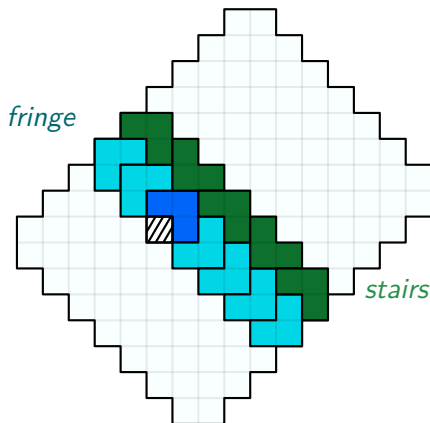
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- Place *stairs* to cover other cells.



# Tiling Aztec Rectangle with a single defect (cont'd)

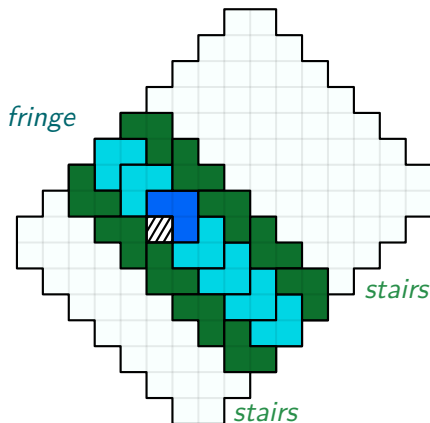
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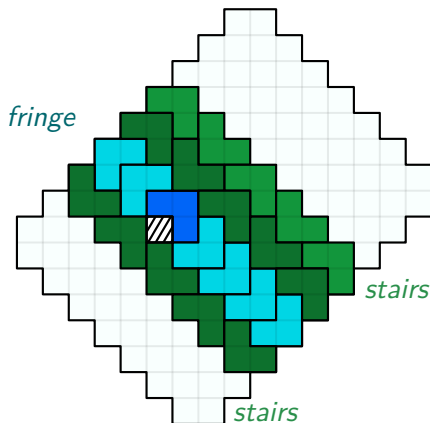
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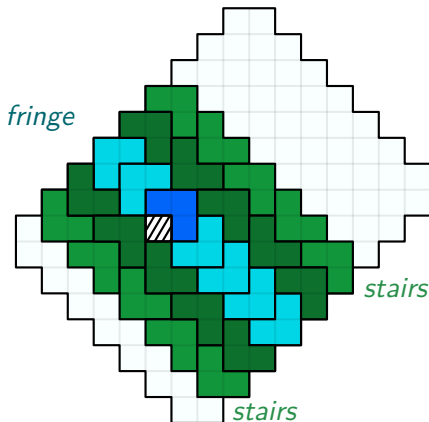
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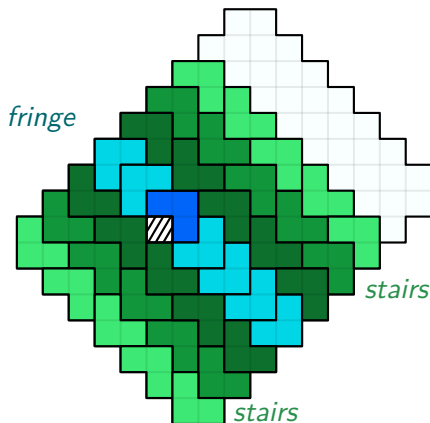
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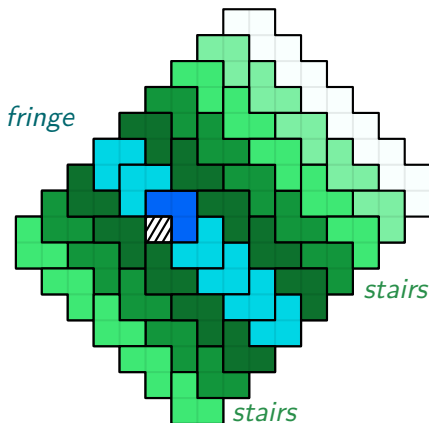
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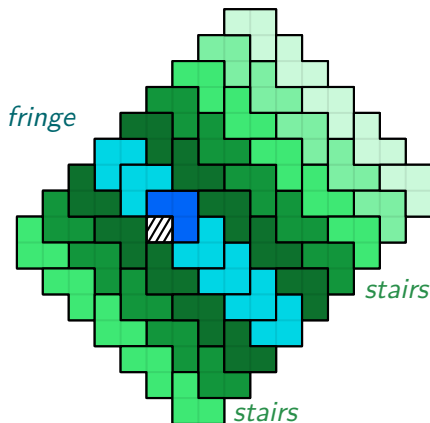
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- 2 Tiling of the Aztec Rectangles
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  - Aztec Rectangle with a single defect
  - Tiling Aztec Rectangle with unbounded number of defects
- 3 180-Tromino Tiling
  - A rotation constraint
  - Forbidden Polyominoes

# Tiling Aztec Rectangle with an unbounded number of defects

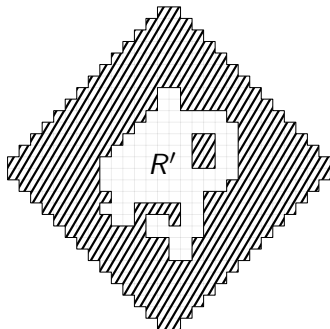


# Tiling Aztec Rectangle with an unbounded number of defects

Given a region  $R'$ , we can embed  $R'$  inside a sufficiently large Aztec Rectangle  $\mathcal{AR}_{a,b}$ .

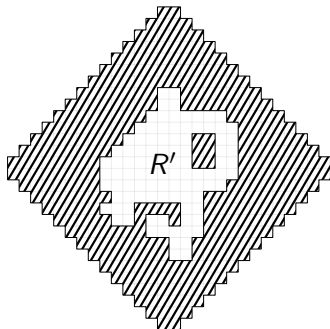
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## Theorem

The problem of tiling Aztec Rectangle  $\mathcal{AR}_{a,b}$  with an *unbounded number of defects* is **NP-complete**.

## 1 Introduction

- Polyominoes
- L-Tromino Tiling Problem

## 2 Tiling of the Aztec Rectangles

- Aztec Rectangle
- Aztec Rectangle with a single defect
- Tiling Aztec Rectangle with unbounded number of defects

## 3 180-Tromino Tiling

- A rotation constraint
- Forbidden Polyominoes



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The **180-tromino tiling** problem only allows **180° rotations** of L-trominoes, i.e., the tile set can be

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With no loss of generality, we will only consider **right-oriented 180-trominoes**.

# 180°L-Tromino Tiling (cont'd)

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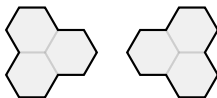
## Theorem

*There is a one-one correspondence between 180-tromino tiling and the triangular trihex tiling [Conway and Lagarias, (1990)].*

# 180°L-Tromino Tiling (cont'd)

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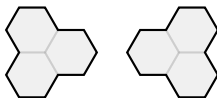


Two **triangular trihex**.

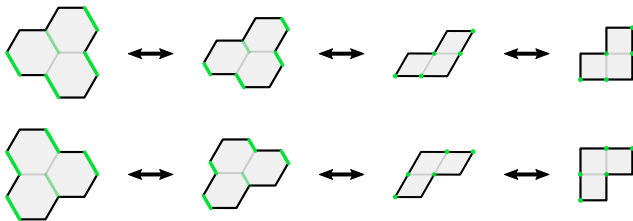
# 180°L-Tromino Tiling (cont'd)

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There is a one-one correspondence between **180-tromino tiling** and the **triangular trihex tiling** [Conway and Lagarias, (1990)].



Two **triangular trihex**.



Transformation from **triangular trihex** to **180-tromino**



## Definition

A **cell tetrisection** is a division of a cell into 4 equal size cells.





# 180°L-Tromino Tiling (cont'd)

## Definition

A **cell tetrisection** is a division of a cell into 4 equal size cells.



## Definition

A **tetrisectioned polyomino**  $P^{\boxplus}$  is obtained by tetrisectioning each cell of a polyomino  $P$ .

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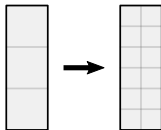
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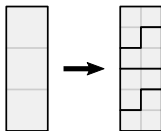
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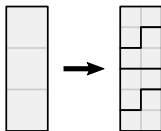
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## Definition

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However, it is not known if the converse statement is true or false.



## 180°L-Tromino Tiling (cont'd)

Horiyama et al. also proved that the **l-tromino tiling** problem is **NP-Complete**.



## 180°L-Tromino Tiling (cont'd)

Horiyama et al. also proved that the **I-tromino tiling** problem is **NP-Complete**.

Theorem [Horiyama, Ito, Nakatsuka, Suzuki and Uehara (2012)]

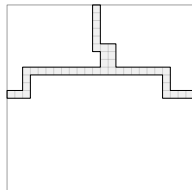
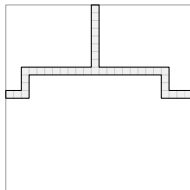
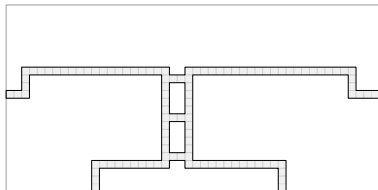
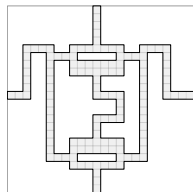
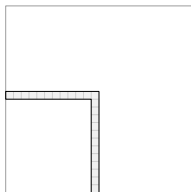
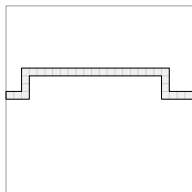
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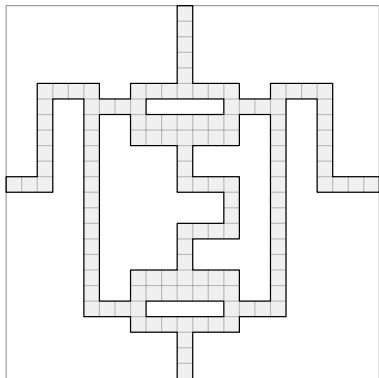


## 180°L-Tromino Tiling (cont'd)

In each gadget  $G$ , **l-tromino tiling** for  $G$  can be simulated with **180-tromino tiling** for  $G^{\boxplus}$ .

# 180°L-Tromino Tiling (cont'd)

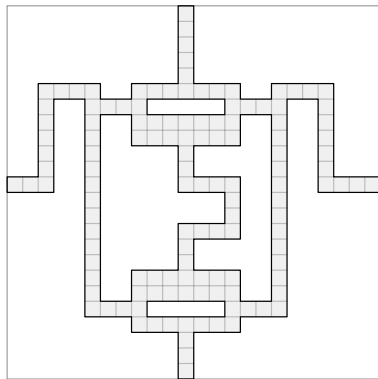
In each gadget  $G$ , **l-tromino tiling** for  $G$  can be simulated with **180-tromino tiling** for  $G^{\boxplus}$ .



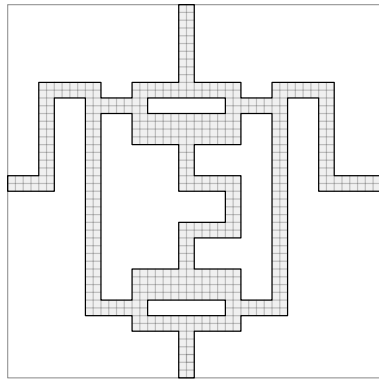
(a) Original gadget  $G$ .

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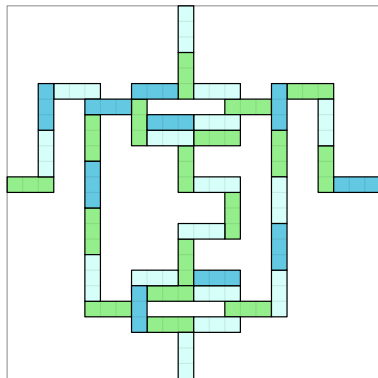
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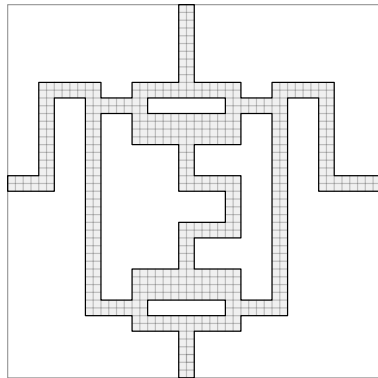
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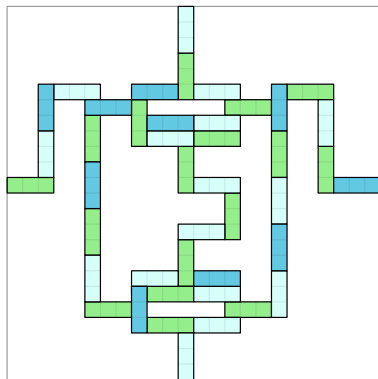
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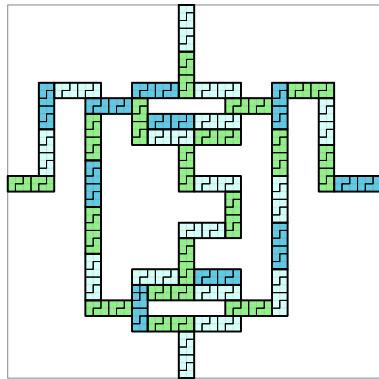
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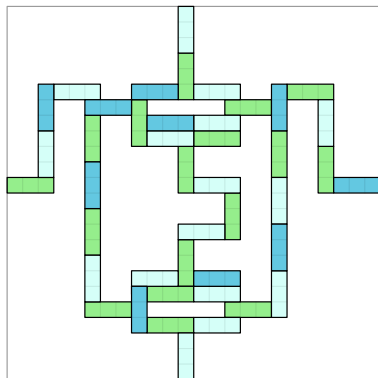


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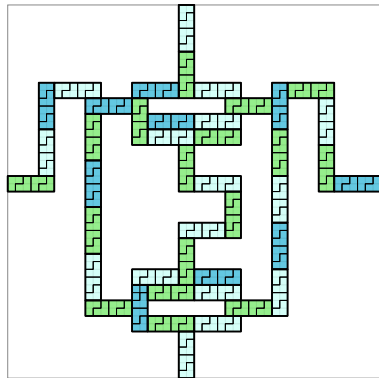


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## Theorem

**180-tromino tiling** is **NP-complete**.

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  - L-Tromino Tiling Problem
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  - Forbidden Polyominoes

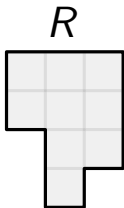
# Forbidden Polyominoes

# Forbidden Polyominoes

The **180-tromino tiling** can also be reduced to the **Maximum Independent Set** problem.

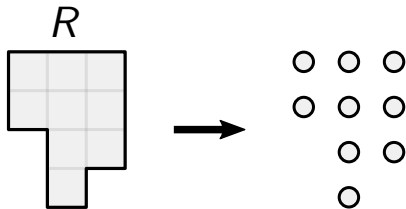
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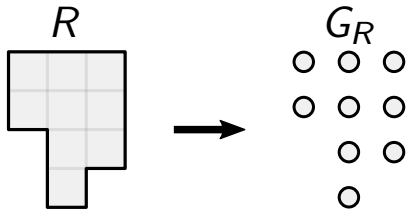
The 180-tromino tiling can also be reduced to the **Maximum Independent Set** problem.



- Transformation from  $R$  to  $G_R$ :
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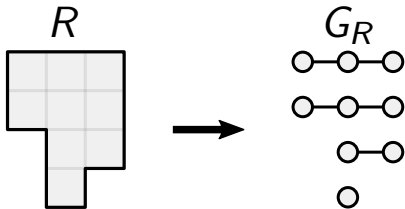
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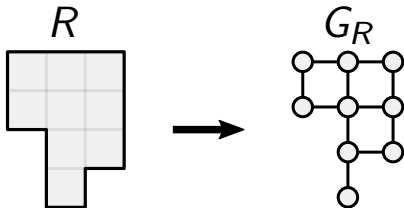


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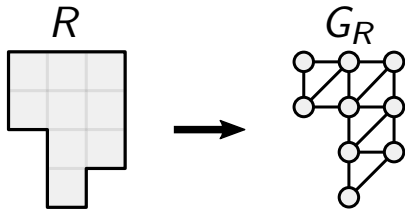
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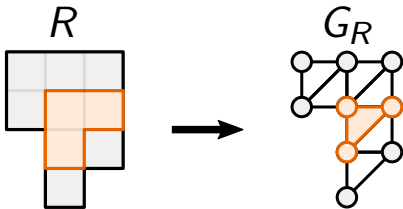
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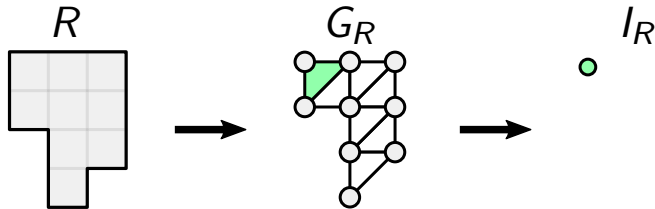
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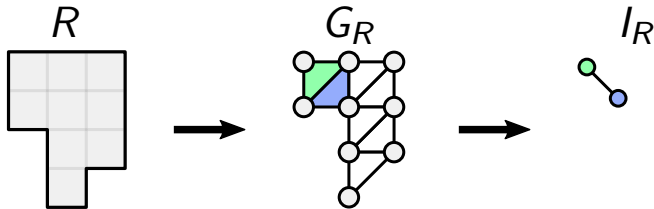
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- Transformation from  $G_R$  to  $I_R$ :
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  - Add an edge where 3-cycles intersect.

# Forbidden Polyominoes

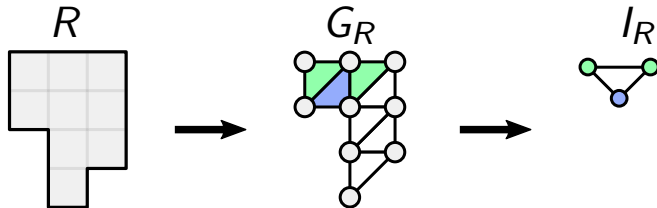
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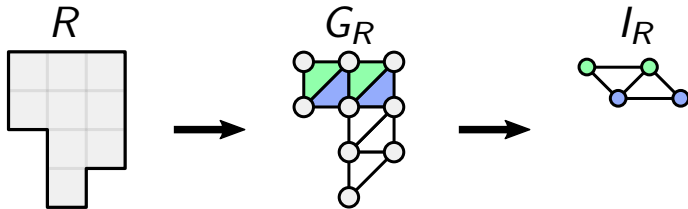
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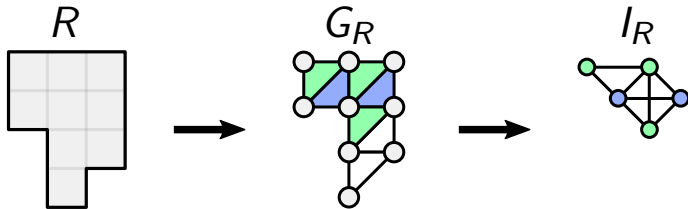
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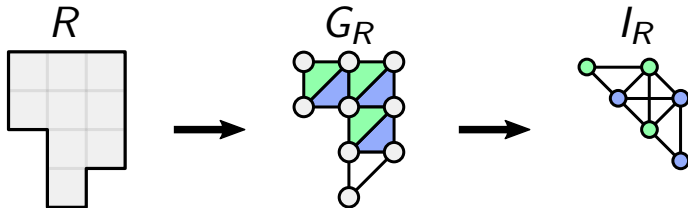


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  - Transform every 3-cycle of  $G_R$  to vertices of  $I_R$ .
  - Add an edge where 3-cycles intersect.



# Forbidden Polyominoes

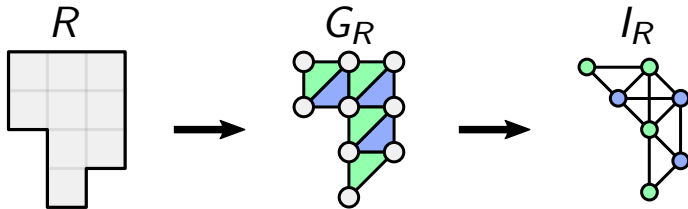
The 180-tromino tiling can also be reduced to the **Maximum Independent Set** problem.



- Transformation from  $R$  to  $G_R$ :
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# Forbidden Polyominoes

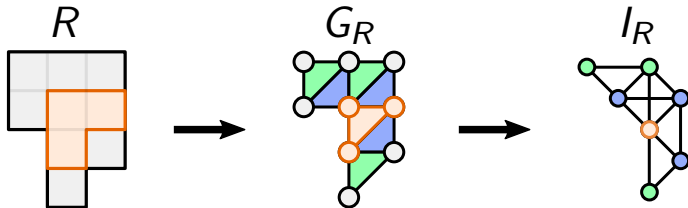
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# Forbidden Polyominoes

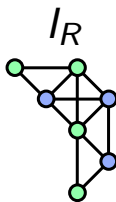
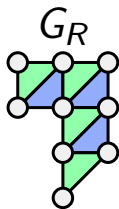
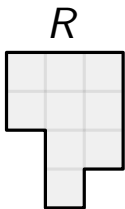
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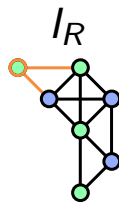
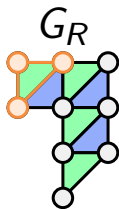
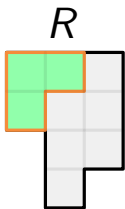
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# Forbidden Polyominoes (cont'd)

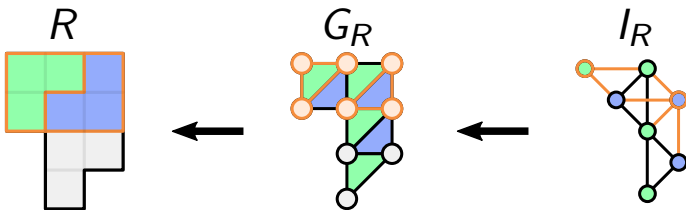
# Forbidden Polyominoes (cont'd)



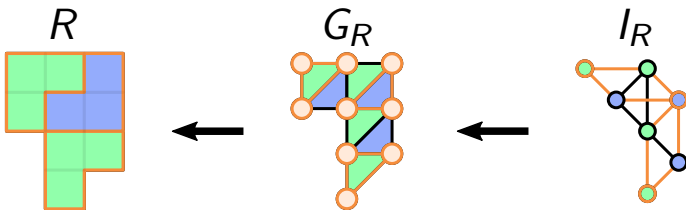
# Forbidden Polyominoes (cont'd)



# Forbidden Polyominoes (cont'd)

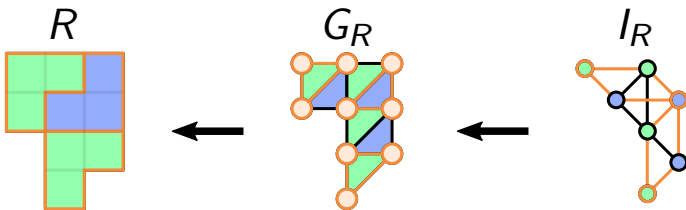


# Forbidden Polyominoes (cont'd)





# Forbidden Polyominoes (cont'd)



## Theorem

*Maximum Independent Set* of  $I_R$  is equal to  $\frac{|R|}{3}$   
 $\iff R$  has a *180-tromino tiling*.

where  $|R|$  the number of cells in a region  $R$ .

# Forbidden Polyominoes (cont'd)

## Forbidden Polyominoes (cont'd)

If  $I_G$  is **claw-free**, i.e., does not contain a **claw** as induced graph, then computing **Maximum Independent Set** can be computed in **polynomial time**.

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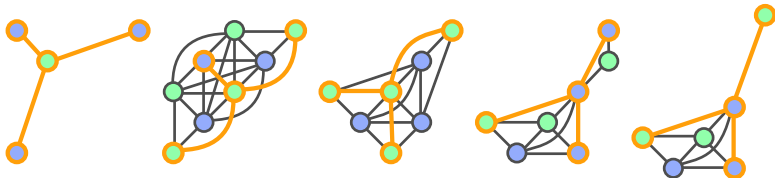
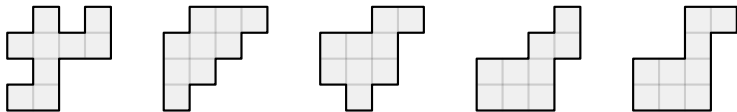
The following five polyominoes generates a distinct  $I_G$  with a **claw** in it.

# Forbidden Polyominoes (cont'd)

If  $I_G$  is **claw-free**, i.e., does not contain a **claw** as induced graph, then computing **Maximum Independent Set** can be computed in **polynomial time**.



The following five polyominoes generates a distinct  $I_G$  with a **claw** in it.

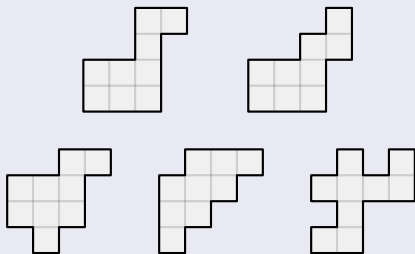


# Forbidden Polyominoes (cont'd)

# Forbidden Polyominoes (cont'd)

## Theorem

If a region  $R$  **doesn't** contain a *rotated, reflected or sheared forbidden polyomino*, then *180-tromino tiling* can be computed in a *polynomial time*.





Thank you!

Thank you!

THANK

YOU!

# Thank you!



You can try the tetrasected cell tiling program in your phone browser: <http://bit.ly/TetrasedtedTiling>